


Columbia University
in the City of New York

College of Physicians and Surgeons

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New York (State) University - Regents.

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REPORT
OF A COMMITTEE
OF THE
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY,
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.



MADE TO THE REGENTS,
JANUARY 12, 1826.



ALBANY:

PRINTED BY CROSWELL, BARNUM & VAN BENTHUYSEN.

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M-R 747.C7

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1826

At a meeting of the Regents of the University, held pursuant to adjournment, in the Senate Chamber, April 5th, 1825,

It was Resolved,

That lieutenant-governor Tallmadge, Mr. Van Rensselaer, and Mr. Marcy be a committee to visit the college of physicians and surgeons in the city of New-York ; to the end that the matters in controversy between the trustees and professors thereof, and the affairs of said college generally, may be more fully investigated, and that the said committee report thereon to the Regents with all convenient speed.

It was thereupon ordered that the several reports made at the present and former meetings of the board by the committee of which Mr. Troup is chairman, together with all communications, documents and papers relative to said college, received during the present session of the Regents, be referred to the said visiting committee.

A true extract from the minutes of the Regents.

G. HAWLEY,

Secretary.

The committee appointed under the preceding ordinance of the Regents of the University, dated April 5th, 1825, respectfully
REPORT,—

That in pursuance of their appointment to *visit* “the college of physicians and surgeons in the city of New-York,” the committee repaired to the city, and requested the president to convene the professors and trustees at the college, to meet with the committee. The request was promptly and obligingly complied with by the president; and the professors and trustees attended as promptly, and with punctuality at the appointed time and place. The first meeting of the committee with the professors and trustees was on the 30th of June, 1825, when the business of the investigation into the condition and concerns of the college of physicians and surgeons, was commenced and continued diligently from day to day until the 7th of July inclusive.

It is with pleasure the committee can here remark, that during the whole time of their tedious inquiry, the professors and trustees attended with your committee with great punctuality; and laying aside their other pursuits, devoted their time and attention to the concerns of the college, with commendable assiduity, and afforded to the committee, with candor and frankness, every assistance and information in their power to communicate, tending to facilitate the business of the inquiry, and elicit the truth on the various subjects under consideration. It is due to the professors and trustees to say, that however much they differed from each other in the arguments urged, or in the conclusions drawn from the facts enquired after, yet in the whole course of the business, the conduct of each, was characterised by an openness of communication and integrity of manner, which gave assurance of the fairness of the motives of each; and that the conclusions, maintained often times with vehement warmth, were urged from a conscientious belief in their correctness, and that they were essential to the welfare and advancement of the college, so liberally endowed, and so justly the object of great public solicitude.

But while the committee subscribe to the correct intentions and well intended endeavours, of both professors and trustees, to advance the best interests of the college, it must be confessed, that in the various communications and charges made this last winter to the Regents, and to the committee in the progress of their inqui-

ties, many indications have been given of the existence of personal asperities and deep rooted differences of opinion, which call for the watchful interposition of the Regents, and seem to require some modification of the ordinances and laws for the government of the college.

“The college of physicians and surgeons in the city of New-York,” has partaken largely in the liberal bounties of this state to its literary institutions. The importance of medical science to the public health and to the lives of our citizens, has been duly appreciated. This college has been one of the favourite institutions of the state, and may become one of its proudest ornaments. The known talents and celebrity in medical science, of its professors, has within a few years reared this infant institution, and while it has become the just pride of the city in which it is founded, it has been enabled to hold an eminence in science at least equal to similar institutions established in neighbouring cities. Amongst the trustees of this college are found many individuals possessing great acquirements, and who are rapidly ascending the mount of fame. Practitioners in medicine, whose reputation so much depends on mere opinion, and who have no certain means whereby to test their relative merits, often imbibe too much sensitiveness, and encounter the conflicting opinions of others with an irritability which gives colour to their proceedings, and even influences their judgments. Perhaps in this rivalry in medical science, may be traced some of those latent causes from which may have proceeded those contentions and feuds, which have hitherto attended the progress of this college, and which but too evidently yet exist between professors and trustees.

In order the better to understand the enquiry pursued, and the conclusions to which the committee have arrived, in this business, it seems necessary in their opinion to take a short retrospect of the origin and progress of the “college of physicians and surgeons in the city of New-York,” and from a knowledge of its past difficulties, to endeavor to prescribe beneficial regulations for its future government.

1791, January 13th, Doctor Nicholas Romeyn presented a memorial to the *Regents*, representing that he had established a medical school in the city of New-York, and requested the Regents to take the institution under their protection.

On the 28th of January, a report was made by a committee of

the Regents, in favour of the memorial, and the Regents thereupon appointed a committee of their body to visit the institution.

On the 23d February, in the same year, Sir James Jay, Knight, Nicholas Romeyn and others, presented a petition to the Regents, praying to be incorporated as a college of physicians.

A counter memorial or remonstrance, was at the same time presented, signed by John Bard, President, and James Tillary, Secretary, of the medical society of New-York, in behalf of said society.

On the 3rd of March, 1791, the Regents approved of the establishment of a medical college, as applied for; but having doubts of their power, resolved to apply to the legislature for further authority.

1791, March 24th, the legislature having passed an act, empowering the Regents to establish a college of physicians and surgeon in this state, the Regents thereupon determined to establish one, and directed a charter to be drawn.

1792, February 8th, the trustees of Columbia college made a representation to the Regents respecting a *medical school*, and the Regents appointed a committee to confer with them on the subject.

February 15th, this committee of the Regents, appointed as above, reported—That they had conferred with a committee of the trustees of Columbia college, and had learned from them that they were actually engaged in establishing a medical department in their college, agreeably to their charter, and that they requested the Regents to *suspend* any further proceedings in the matter, until they should see the success of the institution projected by the said trustees of Columbia college.

This request seems to have been acceded to by the Regents, and the subject remained under the experiment of the trustees of Columbia College.

1807, March 3d, a memorial was presented by the medical society of the county of New-York, praying for the incorporation, by the Regents of a college of physicians and surgeons.

The Regents assented to the memorial, and directed a charter to be prepared accordingly.

1807, March 12th, the Regents granted a charter of incorporation to the medical society of New-York, as a college of physicians and surgeons, in which *all the members of said society, and all the physicians authorised to practice in said city, are declared to be trustees, or members of the said college, and are duly incorporated as such.*

This charter contained a full reservation to the Regents, of right

to alter or amend the charter in every respect, and to remove the trustees, or any of them.

The Regents retained the appointment of the professors, and the trustees had the appointment of their own president and other officers.

1807, April 3d, the Regents appointed the professors for the college of physicians and surgeons, and the college was fully organized. *The trustees consisted of one hundred and one practitioners in medicine.*

1808, March 3d, the Regents, *upon sufficient causes, and on the application of the trustees*, amended the charter of the college, so as to vest the appointment of the president and other officers in the *Regents*, instead of the trustees.

From this time until March, 1811, several interchanges of professorships took place among the professors—some alterations and regulations of minor importance were made by the Regents—and much dissatisfaction and recrimination among the professors and trustees.

1811, March 1st and 25th, *Five* several communications were made to the Regents, by different sects, or parties in the college.—They were all referred to a committee.

1811, April 1st, the last mentioned committee reported, “that unfortunate misunderstandings have taken place between the several professors of that institution, which have already materially impeded its operations,” &c. &c. “The committee forbear to trace and bring to light the conduct of individuals, because they think it useless and invidious,” &c. &c.

“The committee state that propositions have been made to remodel the institution with a view of rendering its operations more simple, and of introducing into it several of the professors of the medical school in Columbia college, and other eminent and distinguished individuals. This proposition has been viewed by the committee in the most favourable light, as it may extinguish the feuds existing among the present professors of the college of physicians and surgeons, and as it will in all probability be the means of uniting the two schools. The latter appears to be an object of the first importance, in as much as it will assemble in one institution a splendid collection of medical and surgical talent, and as it cannot fail to merit and receive the patronage and encouragement of the legislature.”

The committee then proposed an amendment of the charter, and a new list of officers and professors, which the Regents adopted.— One of the amendments revoked the former number of trustees, and limited the number to twenty-five.

1812, June 4th, the Regents adopted an entire new charter for “The college of physicians and surgeons in New-York,” consolidating into one, all former grants, and making such alterations as to them appeared expedient.

This charter does not contain any reservation to the Regents, of the right to alter or amend its provisions, or to remove trustees, as was contained and reserved in the first charter, granted to the college on the 12th of March, 1807. Yet it may well be questioned, whether this consolidation of all former grants with new provisions into one entire charter, may not be considered in the light and nature of “alterations and amendments” to the first charter, and as such, to be taken and held subject to the reservations and rights retained to the Regents in the original charter.

In the 8th and 29th sections of “the act relative to the university,” passed April 5th, 1813, and found in 2nd vol. laws, page 262, this last charter is confirmed to the college with certain limitations and reservations, and among others, that the Regents reserve the right of conferring degrees, of appointing professors and teachers of the several branches of medical science in the said college, and of filling all such vacancies as may arise among the trustees ; and further declaring, that it shall and may be lawful for the Regents, at any time or times, to alter and amend the said charter, provided such alterations or amendments are not repugnant to the constitution or laws of this state, or inconsistent with vested rights.

1814, March 7th, the committee of the Regents, to whom the annual report of the college of physicians and surgeons was referred, reported, that a complete union had taken place between the medical department of Columbia college and the college of physicians and surgeons, and that the trustees of Columbia college had ABOLISHED the faculty of medicine in their institution.

The committee recommended the necessary appointments, &c. to carry the said union into complete operation. The Regents thereupon, (with the consent of the trustees of the college of physicians and surgeons,) organized anew the college, by a new distribution of professorships, &c., and a new appointment of pro-

fessors, &c. They also adopted the by-laws of the college as submitted by the trustees.

By this arrangement the medical professors in Columbia college were transferred to the college of physicians and surgeons.

The college continued to progress under this state of arrangements from this time until 1819, subject however to many expressions of dissatisfaction, and various new suggestions for its better organization.

1819,* February 10th, the state medical society represented to the Regents, that in their opinion *the price of medical education* in the college of physicians and surgeons in the city of New-York, *was too great*, &c. Against this representation, it was urged, that any material reduction in the price of tuition, would deprive the professors of the just reward of their talents, and in its tendency, drive them from their professorships, to the great injury of the college.

The Regents made no ordinance on this subject.

1820, February 2nd, the medical society of the county of New-York preferred sundry charges against the college of physicians and surgeons, and prayed an investigation.

The state medical society did the same, and also required an investigation.

The nature and the number of these charges, proceeding from sources so respectable, assumed such a formidable aspect, as to command the attention of the Regents, and engrossed much of their time during their sessions. The complaints were referred to a committee of the Regents to investigate.

The committee in their report (March 22d, 1820) state, "that collisions exist between the college of physicians and surgeons" and "the New-York," and also "the state medical society," &c. They proposed various remedies and alterations, which were adopted by the Regents.

The Regents adopted several ordinances, altering the charter, being another new organization of the college, &c. &c.

Notwithstanding the various and untiring efforts of the Regents to perfect the government of the college of physicians and surgeons, so as to secure to it harmony and that public reputation to which it seemed so eminently entitled, and which was so necessary to enable it to confer upon the state those important public benefits which it had just reason to anticipate ; yet, although the college increased in reputation and in the number of its students in medicine, new difficulties were found to exist, and new complaints were

pressed upon the consideration of the Regents. These complaints, or rather "*representations and suggestions for the better regulation and advancement of the concerns of the college,*" as they were termed by the trustees from whom they proceeded, at length assumed such complexion of differences in sentiment between the professors and the trustees, as finally led to the appointment of your present committee (April 5th, 1825) to visit the college, and enquire into its general condition and concerns.

With such a pre-existing state of facts in view, connected with the various organizations which the college had undergone, and with such a preface of circumstances, which had occurred in the government and regulations of the institution, all exhibited before your committee, they commenced their *visitatorial inquiry* on the 30th of June, 1825.

The business was opened on the part of the trustees by one of its members, with a general explanation and statement of very many existing evils, and suggestions for many new regulations, all of which were urged to be essential to the welfare of the college.

The committee then interfered, and determined they could not in this manner, admit discussions on matters and things in general, appertaining to the college. That such a course irritated feelings, and tended to no conclusion. That the object of the committee was to invite enquiry and accusation, and not to shut out discussion, but that the business might have shape and certainty, it was necessary to specify some item of complaint, and then produce the proof in support of the charges, after which, discussions as to the conclusions and proper remedies would be in order, and that in such manner any complaint preferred by the professors or trustees, or any individual, should be diligently investigated.

The enquiry subsequently proceeded, under such regulations, and every matter which appeared to the committee, of importance, or which was alledged to affect the interest of the college, was minutely and diligently investigated. The material and prominent points of this enquiry can only be necessary, in the opinion of the committee, to detail in this report to the Regents.

THE FUNDS AND FINANCES OF THE COLLEGE.

The committee called for any suggestion or knowledge of any misapplication or mismanagement of the funds and finances of the college. They were happy to find there was no suggestion or pretence of any misapplication or abuse of the funds and finances

of the institution on the part of any individual, or by either the professors or trustees of the college. Several of the trustees here explained, and said their communications appeared to have been misunderstood by the Regents, and also by the committee. They were not intended as charges against the professors ; that they were not accusers, and had no complaints to prefer. But their communications were made in the performance of their duty as trustees, and intended only to procure a re-organization of the charter, and better regulations for the government of the institution, and the more economical management of its concerns.

The committee proceeded and examined the particulars of the current expenses of the college for the last two years, which had been allowed and paid by the trustees ; all of which appeared to be reasonable and proper. In the course of this examination it appeared there was some dissatisfaction from the amount expended by the professors in annually advertising the commencement and course of the lectures at the college. The professors insisting on the importance of full notice being given, not only in this, but in other states, and that the expenses had been necessarily incurred. The committee were of opinion that this matter belonged to the trustees, and recommended, that to prevent any further difference, an order should be provided by the trustees, limiting the amount of expenses hereafter annually to be incurred for such advertisements, or specifying the number and places for such publications ; and that a similar provision should be made for all usual and ordinary expenses which the professors may annually and necessarily incur.

The *endowments* to this college of physicians and surgeons, granted by the state at different times, in the whole amount to \$59,457.27, and have been made from the proceeds of certain lotteries.

An appropriation was originally made for the support of a professorship of anatomy and surgery in Columbia college, and was transferred to the college of physicians and surgeons in 1810. It has since been regularly paid to the Regents for the benefit of this college, till July, 1824, viz : 14 years, at \$500 per annum ; total \$7000 : these two sums amounting together to \$66,457.27, constitute the *endowments* to this college.

The college has also received from its own revenue the sum of \$10,172.34, and from sundry loans of money the sum of \$14,336.59 : these several sums of money, amounting to \$90,966.20, show the total sum of the receipts and expenditures of the college of physi-

cians and surgeons from its institution until the first of January, 1825. This sum is exclusive of the *botanical garden*, also bestowed upon the college; but which, by an act of the legislature, was shortly after granted and transferred to Columbia college.

It was represented to the committee, that portions of these monies had been indiscreetly invested, and improvidently expended, and that its fiscal concerns had not been conducted with a due regard to economy. It appeared, however, that most of the monies had been expended, when persons, other than the present incumbents, held several of the professorships; and before most of the present trustees came into office. The committee did not, therefore, pursue the inquiry on this point; not perceiving that it would tend to any beneficial conclusion. It is, however, important, that the condition of this college, in regard to its finances, should be fully disclosed, and be distinctly understood.

After the lotteries were granted, by which the endowments to this college were to be raised, the proceeds of those lotteries, (with the assent of the legislature,) were anticipated and realized. This measure gave to the college the immediate benefit of the endowments, subject, however, to a discount for its ready payment. The college has, consequently, been subjected to a very heavy debt for interest on these advances and its subsequent loans. The sum of \$20,785.35, appears to have been already paid for interest—and the further sum of \$6,742.43, yet remains due for interest, and forms a part of the remaining debts due from the college. In 1817, additional purchases, and considerable alterations and repairs were made to the college property and edifices. To provide funds for the *deficit* of these expenditures, and to meet arrears of interest, it seems the professors agreed to loan to the college, in proportion to their several receipts, the necessary sums to meet its annual payments. Several of the former and the present professors of the college, have made sundry loans, and therefore now have a debt against the college amounting to \$21,079.02. For this amount, they hold the scrip or certificates of the treasurer, for the sums due to the professors respectively. This last sum of \$21,079 02, forms the total debt now due and owing from the college—and for which provision is required.

The *income* of the college consists in the ground rent of a cellar under the building—the matriculation fee—and the five hundred dollars per annum from the Regents.—The total income per annum, has been about \$1,400.

The expenditures of the college, have been for the interest due

on the debt to the professors—the contingent expenses of the college for repairs, &c—additions to the library and periodical publications, and the interest due on the debt of \$20,000, to Mr. A. H. Lawrence : the total expenditures have amounted, per. annum, to about \$4,000. (After October 1826, the college will be relieved from the interest on the debt to Mr. Lawrence ; the money to meet that sum, being then receivable.) The excess of the expenditures heretofore, over the income of the college, has placed the institution in a sinking condition. The provision to meet this excess of expenditure, over the income, has been annually made by the professors, and forms the principal part of the debt before mentioned, as due to them. The debt of the college has been accumulating by borrowing monies to pay its interest and expenses. The college edifices are deteriorating in value, and under its present operations, the time is not very remote, when the whole college property will be inadequate in value to meet its growing debts. It has been correctly urged, that the public institution is fast merging into private property.

It is indispensable to the preservation and the continuance of this institution, that material alterations should be made in the operation of its finances. It remains for the wisdom of the Regents, to determine on some proper plan to relieve and redeem the college from its present burthens.

It has been proposed, that the college should receive the tuition money for the lectures—and that the professors be allowed fixed salaries. Such a measure would damp the ardor of literary pursuit in the professors ; would take from individuals the proportionate rewards due to their celebrity, and might endanger the ultimate prosperity and success of the institution. The committee respectfully suggest, that the *graduation fee* be appropriated permanently to the funds of the college. This sum, added to the *fees for matriculation* ; and the *ten per. cent.* on the tuition, with the *retrenchments* hereinafter proposed, as to the *Treasurer* and *Register*, and with care in the ordinary expenditures, will produce an alteration in the operation of the finances, annually, of about \$4,000. It will produce a considerable amount of receipts, beyond the expenditures, and provide for a gradual redemption of the debts.

The committee recommend this subject to the particular consideration of the Regents. Sundry documents and papers have been prepared, and are herewith submitted, which throw much light on

this interesting subject. An abstract of the finances of the college, marked A, is especially referred to.

The late Dr. De Witt, received certain monies to be expended and accounted for to the college. His representatives hold scrip or claims against the college ; and the account remains unsettled. Other monies have been advanced to other of the professors, to erect fixtures, and meet expenditures for the college. They also have demands ; and the accounts remain unliquidated. It is very desirable, in the opinion of the committee, that all those accounts be finally adjusted, and the correct balances be ascertained and distinctly stated. The income and the expenditures of the college, should be precisely known, and often compared.

THE TREASURER AND REGISTRAR.

The present treasurer has performed the labour of this office, since 1811. He appears to have discharged the duties imposed upon him with intelligence, fidelity and care. He performed the duties without compensation, from 1811, to 1818. Since that time he has charged in his account, for receiving and disbursing, a commission of 2 1-2 per cent, on the monies which have passed through his hands. He now claims, (in his letter of April, 1825,) " inasmuch, as the other offices are extremely lucrative, and no disposition on the part of the incumbents to make sacrifices for the benefit of the institution," that he be allowed a like commission on all monies received and disbursed by him, before 1818. The amount of the commissions received by him since 1818, is \$1,257.17. The treasurer, upon the whole, has been very well compensated : there is no good reason for a very great commission, on receiving and paying the sums granted to literary institutions. In the opinion of the committee, this claim of the treasurer for further commissions, ought not to be allowed.

The present registrar (Dr. Francis) has received no compensation since he has held the office, for recording, and keeping the books and proceedings of the college. Considerable sums, however, have been paid to a scrivner, amounting to \$745, for engrossing into record books, the minutes, charter, by-laws, and other proceedings of the college, from its organization to this time. This duty ought to have been performed as the proceedings occurred. But it appeared the registrar could not sooner possess himself of the papers to complete the records. It is hoped the trustees will not again suffer it to be in arrear. The sum of \$50 per annum, to each, would, at all times, be a sufficient and reasona-

ble compensation to the treasurer, and the register, if any pay was required for their services. The allowance to them ought to be limited to such sum : but the *register* does not ask compensation, and several of the professors and trustees now prefer to perform the duties of treasurer in future, without any charge. The present treasurer is willing to do the same, if other officers are put on the same footing. No allowance for either of these officers will hereafter be expected.

This will form a considerable retrenchment of expenses, and obviate future difficulties. These duties, important in their character, but of very little risque or labour, ought ever to be performed by some officers interested in the concerns of the college. An instalment of \$20,000 from the lottery endowments, is receivable this year to meet the debt due to Mr. Lawrence ; this sum, with the other ordinary receipts, would produce a commission of nearly \$700, while its labour will principally be performed by receiving and handing over a check.

A *graduation fee* of \$25 is required of each candidate on his obtaining a diploma. This fee appears to have been required since 1811, and was then considered a perquisite to the professors, and a compensation for the labour of the examination. It was received by them for their own use. In the infant state of the college, and when the classes of the students were small, the allowance of this fee was a proper and necessary encouragement to the professors.

The classes of students have since increased, and the amount of the tuition money has been so much augmented, it may well be considered whether the *tuition* is not alone a very sufficient compensation to the professors, for four months labour in a course of lectures of one hour each day : and more especially, if the advantages derived from the *winter* students are considered. The committee recommend an ordinance, appropriating this graduation fee in future to the funds of the college. It may be estimated as producing annually about \$1000, and will greatly aid the finances in their depressed condition.

A controversy formerly existed between the late president (Dr. Bard) and the professors, as to the division of the residue of this graduation fee, after an allowance of three dollars to the secretary of the board of Regents for diplomas, &c. An appeal was made to the Regents.

By an ordinance of the Regents in 1820, this fee was confirmed, and granted \$5 to the president, and the remainder equally to the

professors ; and formed, as it had before, a source of their individual income and profit arising from their lectures. Upon an examination into the funds of the college in 1822, and finding they were greatly embarrassed, and sinking under accumulating debts, the trustees had under actual discussion a resolution, proposing to the Regents to resume the graduation fees, and place them in aid of the common funds of the college. The professors, thereupon, on the 24th of January, 1822, subscribed and delivered to the trustees the following agreement.

“ COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS,

January 24th, 1822.

“ We the undersigned, professors and surgeons, &c. do agree to place our graduation fees for a term of five years at the disposal of the college, unless in the mean time it should be relieved from its present embarrassment.”

The proposed resolution then under discussion by the trustees was withdrawn, and not further acted upon. The trustees in their report to the Regents, represented, that the professors had relinquished to the college, their graduation fees for the term of five years.

The Regents on the 10th of April, 1822, passed the following ordinance. “ That the sum of five dollars, heretofore allowed to the president of the said college, together with the sums allowed to the professors therein, out of the graduation fees, &c. &c. be and the same is appropriated to the general funds of the said college for the said period of five years.”

The trustees, understanding that some difference of opinion was entertained, as to the effect of the surrender of the graduation fees, made by the professors, passed on the 12th February, 1822, the following resolution. “ Resolved, as the sense of this board, that the arrangement entered into by the professors, in relation to the graduation fees, is understood to amount to a relinquishment of said graduation fees to the college, so long as its embarrassments require them, provided the said term does not exceed five years.”

This resolution was passed in the board of trustees when the professors were present. It appeared that no division of names was taken on the passing of the resolution. The affirmative of the question was put, to which there was a general answer “ aye.” The negative was put, to which there was one voice said “ no,” and the resolution was recorded as duly passed. It did not appear

whether professors voted or remained silent upon the passing of the resolution, yet it was understood, by sentiments previously expressed, that one or two of the professors were opposed to it.

Notwithstanding all these proceedings, the professors claim that the graduation fees were not relinquished by them to the college; but that to aid the college, they were allowed to be put into its funds as a loan for the term of five years, and that the amount thereof with interest is a just debt due from the college to the professors. They further urge, that the Regents in their reports to the legislature in 1822 and 1823, recognized this claim as a loan put into the college funds for five years only.

This graduation fee was in 1821-2	\$730 50
1822-3	750 00
1823-4	1275 00
1824-5	1025 00
Suppose 1825-6 to be the same,	1025 00
	<hr/>
	\$4805 50

If this claim is allowed, this sum, with interest thereon, must be added to the amount of debts due from the college. In the opinion of the committee, the claim ought not to be allowed.

ANATOMY AND SURGERY.

Under this head, the committee had cause to apprehend that if exactions had not been made upon students, yet that improper usages were allowed, which required the interposition of authority.

The subject was critically examined. All suggestions of grievances were attentively heard; and the result was such, it appeared to your committee, that these departments were conducted in a correct manner, and without just cause of complaint.

The provision made by law, for delivering over for *dissection* certain convicts, who are executed, or who die in the state prison, furnishes an insufficient number of "*subjects*," even for the regular course of surgical and anatomical lectures.

The professors, in the course of their lectures, give explanations, and perform the operations of surgery and dissection in the presence of the class of students, seated upon elevated benches, around the lecture room. This course teaches the principles and the practice of anatomy and surgery, and is a performance of the professor's duties. But the student, who is desirous to become a skilful practitioner, feels the evident necessity of a more intimate

examination of the matters of his study, and the important benefits to be derived from it ; and from reducing the theory of the lectures to practice, by descending from the benches, and handling the *subject*, and actually performing operations with the instruments.

This desire, in the pursuit of practical information, induces the students oftentimes to assemble in the dissecting room, out of lecture hours, to participate in actual practice. The assistants to the professors, attend with them, take care of the instruments, aid them in the performance of operations, and with renewed explanations. Those assistants, to the professors in *Surgery* and *Anatomy*, are called *Demonstrators*, and appear to be very useful aids to the diligent student.

These volunteer associations, and meetings, of the students, with the demonstrators, require *other subjects* for operations. It seems a usage has, therefore, been introduced, that each student, uniting in these meetings with the demonstrators, shall contribute the sum of *five dollars*, to constitute a common fund, from which to *provide other subjects*, to operate upon. It appeared that the sums thus contributed by the students, had been actually applied to the professed object, leaving a deficit of the expenses actually incurred ; and *that no part of the monies had been received, or retained, by either the professors, or demonstrators*, and that the contributions had been voluntary, and from such students only, as desired admission into those private meetings among themselves.

It was urged, that these meetings, and this contribution, was an abuse, and led to evil consequences, *and that they ought to be prohibited* ; or that, if they were deemed beneficial, they should be sanctioned by the Regents, and the offices of the demonstrators should be erected into a distinct department.

In the opinion of your committee, the practice yet has led to no abuse—that it is productive of great benefits ; and that the diligent student ought not to be prohibited from this source of additional information. To recognize the offices of these *demonstrators*, as separate departments, would greatly augment the present expenses to the student ; and, perhaps, might grow into competition with the professors in surgery and anatomy, and even invite new sources for collision in this college. If these *demonstrators* are left as the unforbidden and unauthorised assistants of the professors, the Regents can hold those professors responsible for the conduct of their agents ; and a watchful care over the concerns of the college, will prevent any growing abuse.

Connected with this subject, was the representation of a further abuse, in requiring from each student a contribution of *two dollars*, for an attendant on the *dissecting room*. It appears that a person, in the character of *servant*, waits upon the students at the *dissecting room*—at the lectures, and at their private meetings; provides water, soap, and towels, for their use, and attends to the removing the offals and useless parts of the *subject*, and cleaning the room. For these services, this contribution of *two dollars* has been made. It does not appear to the committee, that the subject requires the interposition of the Regents.

A *matriculation fee*, of five dollars yearly, is now required from each student. This is a perquisite to the college library; and for its gradual increase, especially in the modern periodical publications, and for which the student is entitled to its free use. The annual amount of this fee depends upon the number of students.

It produced to the College, in 1819,	\$711 00
1820,	925 00
1821,	1005 00
1822,	1000 00
1823,	1010 00
1824,	975 00

Perhaps a portion of these monies might be advantageously applied to the purchasing of appropriate medals, to be offered annually, under the auspices of the Regents, for prize essays on medicine, or subjects of science connected with the public health. It would call forth the talents of the country, excite a spirit of improvement, and furnish a collection of valuable materials, for periodical publications. Two prizes, of \$50 each, are regularly offered for the best medical dissertations, by a committee of the university of Massachusetts; and it is worthy of remark, that the premiums have been annually awarded to young physicians and medical students. The medal should derive its value from being a token of honour, rather than from its intrinsic worth. If an honorary degree should sometimes be conferred upon a meritorious competitor for a prize, it would spring from as good causes, rest on as much foundation, and promise as beneficial results to society, as many other degrees now often bestowed by other literary institutions.

It has been urged, that but one matriculation fee, or a fee for one year, should only be charged to each student, and that the

amount of the fee should be increased. It appears to the committee, to be inexpedient, at this time, to make any alterations in the present regulation on this subject.

If the provision now made by law, for delivering certain convicts to the college, could be extended to the convicts, who decrease in the penitentiary, it would probably supply a sufficient number of subjects, not only for the regular lectures, but even for the meetings with the demonstrators of surgery and anatomy. Such provision might assist the criminal police of the state: It would remove the odious practice of the exhumation of bodies: It would relieve the students from the necessary contribution to procure subjects; and might well then justify an increase of the matriculation fee, for the benefit of the college funds.

PROFESSORSHIPS IN THE COLLEGE.

The college has established six professorships, in each of which full courses of lectures are given to the students.

1. Dr. Hosack, on the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.
2. Dr. Macneven, on Chemistry.
3. Dr. Mitchill, on Botany and Materia Medica.
4. Dr. Post, on Anatomy and Physiology.
5. Dr. Mott, on Surgery.
6. Dr. Francis, on Obstetrics, and the Diseases of Women and children.

The lectures commence on the first Monday of November, and continue daily until the first of March. The examination of candidates is then begun and continued till about the 20th of March, when the degrees are conferred.

The prescribed plan of instruction appeared to have been executed according to the existing regulations. The college has a respectable medical library. The professors have a valuable cabinet of anatomical and surgical preparations; a laboratory and an expensive chemical apparatus; an extensive collection of specimens in the materia medica, botany and natural history; and museums containing specimens and articles illustrative of the subjects taught in the lectures. They are deposited in convenient rooms in the college edifice, and are used for the instruction and improvement of the students. It is from these facilities in education, from which the student probably derives as much benefit in his studies, as from his attendance on the lectures. It may be safely said, that

there are very few medical schools in this country, which equal, if there are any that surpass, in the facilities of education, those afforded in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New-York. But it must be stated that these valuable cabinets, collections, apparatus, and museums, are the private property of the professors. They ought to belong to and form a part of the public institution, and be open and accessible to the medical practitioners throughout the state. Till this is effected it cannot be considered entirely a public institution. To accomplish a measure so desirable, great economy should be encouraged in the management of the affairs of the institution ; all proper sources of revenue should be put into the funds of the college ; first, for the liquidation of its debts ; and then to acquire and increase all those facilities in education, which are so important to the student, and so desirable to the public.

The appointment of persons to the professorships in the college should ever be made with great care ; and after great deliberation to ascertain their fitness and their devotedness to the pursuits of medical science. It is recommended that the Regents occasionally cause a scrutiny to be made into the manner and skill with which the duties of the professors are performed ; to ascertain their acquaintance with recent discoveries and modern improvements in medicine, and the treatment of diseases, as well as their continued attention to science, and the continued usefulness of each one, to the advancement of the interests of the college. Such watchful proceedings will keep up proper excitement, and stimulate professors and students to renewed efforts, and increased acquirements. It will elevate the rank of professorships, and raise the institution to the highest grade in science. "The science of medicine was once greatly involved in mystery and artificial theories, when genius lashed it with the pen of *Moliere*. Since it has abandoned its senseless nostrums, and formulas, and fixed itself firmly on the basis of fact and experiment, it has considerably gained in respect, honour, and emolument." To become perfect, it must be divested of its jargon of technicalities ; its principles must be studied and understood, and be attired in the plain robe of reason and common sense. The spirit of free inquiry which characterizes the present age, has considerably improved it. But the patrons of scientific institutions should hold their professors responsible for further amendment. All this will be accomplished in a considerable degree, by the board of visitors, hereafter recommended.

A *tuition fee* of fifteen dollars is charged for the full course of lectures, for one year, with each professor. An additional charge of *five* dollars is allowed to the professors of *chemistry and anatomy* for their assistants, and extra necessary expenses about their lectures.

There is great difference of opinion as to the price proper to be paid for a course of lectures; some urge that the price is much too high, and others insist it is much too low.

The University of PENNSYLVANIA has six professors in the medical department; the fees are \$20 to each professor, for one course of lectures, and the number of students is about 400.

The University of MARYLAND has seven professors in medicine, fees \$20 to each; and about 200 students. The medical institution in CONNECTICUT has four professors; the fees are \$12.50 to each, and about 90 students. The WESTERN college of physicians and surgeons at Fairfield, has five professors; the fees are \$10 each, for three of them; the other two, have \$12 each, and about 120 students. (It is not the object of this report to remark upon the extent or comparative excellence of the courses of the lectures in these different institutions.) After a full hearing of the reasons urged on either side of this question, your committee recommend, that it shall remain with the Regents under advisement, but that no alteration shall be made at the present time.

MEDICAL STUDENTS.

From the very many regulations called for, in order to perfect the discipline and promote the interests of the college, relative to students, it was but too evident, many of the causes of the differences of opinion between the professors, and the trustees and medical societies, were dependent upon or intimately connected with this subject. It therefore received the particular consideration of your committee.

It appeared that the average number of students annually attending the lectures in the college, had been for several years past about two hundred.

The students which attended the lectures of the several professors in 1824-5, were as follows:

Dr. Hosack, 136 students, 4 of which were received without fee.

Dr. Macneven, 117 students.

Dr. Mitchill, 121 students.

Dr. Post, 158 students, 16 of whom paid no fees.

Dr. Mott, 158 students, 16 of whom were private students, and 6 were poor, and paid no fee.

Dr. Francis, 129 students.

It appeared that several of the professors had an established usage, that any person who had regularly attended with them two full courses of lectures, should not be subject to any farther charges for any subsequent attendance at the lectures. It was under such usage that some of the persons, who had been at the lectures, were returned as not paying any fee. It appeared however, that the matriculation fee to the college library, had been duly paid by this excepted class of students.

The regulations of the college require, that in order to be admitted to an examination, each candidate shall be twenty-one years of age ; shall have pursued medical studies for the term of three years, and attended two full courses of lectures, one of which must be at this college. Students very often divide the course of lectures. Attend one year the lectures of certain of the professors, and another year the lectures of the others, so as to complete in three years the full course. This enables the student to attend a second or a third time the lectures of the professors in the departments which he intends more immediately to follow. This manner of receiving the lectures at different seasons, gives many additional advantages to the student.

The students who come from the country, or from abroad, to attend the college during the season of lectures, are not necessarily required to enter into the office of either professor, trustee, or other practising physician. It is entirely at their own option, into what office they enter themselves, or whether they go into any one. It is however, generally the case, that those students do enter into some office, and by far the greater portion of them enter the office of some of the professors. Indeed the professors have almost a monopoly of this class of students.

The two classes of students in the several offices are distinguished by distinct appellations. The students steadily residing in any office are called "private students." Those who enter the office to remain only during the course of lectures, are denominated "winter students."

The students who attend the lectures suppose they can derive great additional advantages from frequenting the office of some practitioner, where they can obtain further explanations on the subjects of the lectures ; compound medicines ; make experiments

in chemistry ; assist in surgical operations, or witness clinical practice. It is probable from such views they generally enter into some office, and most usually give preference to the office of a professor. Many of the students, however, while attending lectures, enter at the same time into the offices of two different professors. It has been urged, that persons who contemplate a residence as practising physicians where they must be called to practice in the different branches of medicine, require to become skilful in those several branches, and therefore properly enter at the same time as students in two or more offices, as interest or inclination may prompt, to increase their opportunities for acquiring information. That the same person may advantageously be a student at the same time, with the professor of surgery or anatomy, and attend his office while engaged with his particular lectures : and also with the professor of the theory and practice of physic, of botany, or chemistry, and attend his office while engaged with his lectures.

On the other hand, this practice of allowing persons to enter as students into two offices at the same time, has been reprobated in strong terms, and represented as injurious to the character of the college, and intended only to secure favouriteism with the professors at their examinations, and as calculated to send forth incompetent men, from motives of partiality, with the honours of the college, which ought only to be the reward of great merit.

Connected with this subject, it appeared that the annual public examination of the candidates for graduation, which, by the charter, is required to be before the board of professors and trustees, has usually been preceded by a private examination before the professors. It was alleged, that the effect had been to render the public examinations a mere form, and that it enabled the professors more easily to accomplish any objects of favouriteism to students who should have entered their several offices. On the other part, it was insisted to be correct and proper for the professors, by previous private examinations, to ascertain the fitness of the pupils, before they were recommended as candidates, and thus to guard them from failure and dishonor by an unsuccessful public examination. It was said that no evil could result from such a course, or because the candidate had been a student in more than one office, in as much as the professors were but six members of a board of twenty-five trustees ; all of whom were by the charter required to attend the examinations, and each of whom were to pass after

satisfactory enquiry, upon the fitness of the candidates, by a direct vote, rejecting or recommending each to a diploma.

The committee called for some proof of any instance of favoritism, or oppression, against any candidate, by either professor, or trustee ; and especially, if any instance could be shewn, where a candidate had been favoured, because he had been in the office of one or more of the professors ; or had been oppressed, because he had been a student in the office of a trustee ? The inquiry was diligent, but ineffectual, to establish any such case. The trustees insisted, that proof ought not to be expected—that the circumstances did not admit of proof. The motives which might influence a student to give preference to a professor's office, or to enter, at the same time, into more than one office, or the bias it might produce on the professors' minds, could not be matter of proof. It was said, the moral effect was evinced, from the relation in which the parties were placed, and from the attitude and power of the professors over the students, and the evils were to be inferred from the circumstances.

In the absence of proof, the case rested wholly upon inferences, which were pressed with great force, upon the consideration of the committee. It was represented, that the college would never attain any considerable eminence, under its present regulations, which were so replete with incongruous provisions. In this latter position only, both professors and trustees seemed to accord. The committee required of each to submit the alterations and amendments, which were deemed so essential to the welfare of the institution. Various propositions were submitted, and which are herewith delivered over to the Regents. The principle of these propositions require, on the one hand ; that an ordinance should be passed, making the professors depend on a specified salary, and prohibiting the professors from taking any " winter students " ; in order to elevate the character of the college, by a more rigid and entirely impartial examination of candidates for diplomas : And on the other hand, that the trustees should be removed from their places ; or that the examination of candidates, and the care of the instruction in the college, be placed wholly with the professors.

In the perplexity arising from the different opinions entertained on these subjects by medical gentlemen, of acknowledged respectability, and perhaps of equal talents, your committee have endeavoured to derive instruction, from a reference to the manner and

principles upon which other medical institutions, in the adjoining states, have been founded. Their means of information are limited ; but as far as they have been enabled to learn, it appears :

The Regents of the University of Maryland, is an incorporation, embracing four faculties, together with the provost of the said university. The four faculties are, viz :

The Faculty of Physic,
The Faculty of Divinity,
The Faculty of Law, and
The Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

These four faculties thus united, constitute the university. "Each of the faculties are declared to possess the power of appointing its own professors and lecturers." And the professors now appointed in the college of medicine of Maryland, and their successors, are declared to constitute the faculty of physic.

The University of Pennsylvania consists of the following general divisions :

1. A department of the Arts and Sciences.
2. A Medical department.
3. A Law department.
4. A department of Natural Sciences.
5. A department of General Literature.

Its government is in the governor of the state, ex-officio, and twenty-four other persons, (who are not medical men,) denominated a "board of trustees." The medical school is under the immediate government of the medical professors, with power to establish proper rules and regulations for conducting the business of the department, subject to the rules and statutes of the board of trustees.

The candidates are examined privately by the professors, in the presence of such of the trustees as choose to attend. If found qualified, they are to be so reported to the provost, who is to communicate such report to "the board of trustees," in order, if approved of by them, that degrees may be conferred.

In *Massachusetts*, the medical school is controuled by a medical faculty, composed of the president of the university, and the five medical professors. It is subject to the incorporation of the president, and fellows of Harvard university, and which is again subject to the "overseers of the university." The overseers are composed of the governor, and senate of the state, with about

thirty distinguished individuals. In practice, the medical faculty regulate their own department, and fill their own vacancies, subject to the negative of the overseers.

In *Connecticut*, "The Medical Institution of Yale College" is a faculty attached to the incorporation of that college; it has four professors,

- 1st. Of Chemistry and Pharmacy.
- 2nd. Of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.
- 3d. Of Anatomy, Surgery, and Midwifery.
- 4th. Of Materia Medica and Botany.

The institution is under the government of the corporation of Yale College, by which its professors are appointed; its concerns regulated and its degrees conferred. The diploma is under the seal of Yale College, and signed by the president. The examinations and recommendations of candidates are made by a board to consist of the four professors and four members from county medical societies, to be annually appointed by "The Medical Convention," which is a meeting composed of delegates from the county societies.

From the preceding references it appears, that the Medical faculty of other institutions, *have the immediate government of their colleges, with the power of the examinations and the right of recommending candidates for degrees*, to a Board of Trustees, answering to "the Regents" in this state, and without any intervening body of Medical Trustees, vested with power to controul the examinations and recommendation of candidates for degrees. A recurrence to the rise and progress of "The College of Physicians and Surgeons in New-York," through its various mutations and regulations, from its commencement to this time, shews that it has hitherto been conducted under the immediate guidance of medical professors and medical trustees, subject to a negative of the Regents. The first proposition in 1791, for its incorporation, was accompanied with opposition and a remonstrance, signed by the president and secretary of the medical society. Subsequently from that time, differences in the government of its concerns have been uninterrupted, and collisions have been unceasing. At the last examination of candidates these differences arose to personal altercations between professors and some of the trustees, in the presence of the students. Their continuance is injuriously indicated to the public, by two conflicting notices for the commencement of the

lectures this last term. The one from the professors, the other from the trustees. It is, however, with feelings of conscious satisfaction, your committee are enabled to state that these differences and collisions appear to have been confined within the body of the professors and medical trustees : and that they have in no instance extended themselves to produce injustice by partiality or oppression to any student or candidate. In the mean while, the college has continued to advance in prosperity, and has retained its number of students, notwithstanding other medical schools have since been established in many of the other states ; and one other in this state, denominated " the Western college of physicians and surgeons," which is also in a flourishing condition, and well attended. To have sustained itself against such competition, is proof of its increasing strength ; and which is yet more certainly demonstrated by a reference to its students, which have been collected not only from this state, but from most of the other states, the Canadas, and even the West India islands. The fame of the college as a medical school, combining very many advantages for improvement in that department in science, has become widely extended, and from its importance, general utility, and admitted facilities in education, it seems to have attained an high degree of eminence.

Perhaps it will not be matter of surprise, that disagreements have arisen in the management of this college, between the professors, and the trustees, and medical societies, when it shall be recollected those bodies are composed of practising physicians, and candidates for the same patronage ; and that most, or all of the trustees, are also members, and many of them officers of the medical societies. The advantages incident to a professorship, may furnish causes of excitement. The duties of a professor do not impede or hinder him from the ordinary pursuits of his private practice. Probably it is even increased in the particular department, by his place of a lecturer. Upwards of one hundred and fifty intelligent young gentlemen, annually brought about him in habits of intimate friendship, in the attendance upon the lectures, carry home with them the kindest feelings of respect, and more widely spread, in their respective places of residence, the fame of their professors. The pecuniary advantages are worthy of consideration. The fee of fifteen dollars, paid by each attendant upon the lectures, forms no inconsiderable sum ; and to which

may be added, a further amount for the fee of thirty-five dollars, claimed by the professors from each "winter student," who enters into his office.

The acquisition of such profit and fame, is the just reward of distinguished reputation, and high attainments in science. To rear this college to its proper eminence, and to sustain it in the fulness of its usefulness, it must ever be in a condition to command talents of such an order. These places ought to be preserved as the meed of high ambition. Such prizes may be expected to awaken competitors in talents, in fame, and fortune. It is one of the benefits to be derived from this institution to society.

By an ordinance of the Regents, passed in March, 1825, the professors are required to account, and pay to the funds of the college, ten per cent upon the sums received by each one for their lectures. Perhaps, at some future time, it may be expedient to increase this rate of per centage, to be paid over to the college funds. The exigencies of the funds require relief. It must, however, be observed, that the graduation fees, together with this allowance of ten per cent on the tuition money, being hereafter to be taken from the professors, make a very material deduction from the income from their lectures, and forms an important annual addition to the finances of the college. The ability to redeem its debts, will depend on its future prosperity. The professors ought not to be depressed with too much parsimony, lest it might impair their efforts, and prove injurious, in the result, to the institution.

After full consideration upon the proposed alterations in the regulations of the college, your committee do not believe it would be expedient to make the professors salary officers.

An ordinance, forbidding professors from taking "winter students," would infringe upon the rights of the students to acquire information with whom they please. The reasons upon which this ordinance is now required against the professors, might then be urged with equal force, to have the same prohibition extended to the trustees, who also have a vote upon the examinations. Such regulations would abridge the opportunities of information to the students—would proscribe, too, large a portion of the medical talent of the city; and would bespeak an unreasonable and improper jealousy of the respectable and honourable gentlemen who are professors and trustees. In the opinion of the committee, the ordinance ought not to be granted.

Whatever difference of sentiment has been entertained, and whatever disagreements have arisen in the government and regulation of this college, the trustees have proceeded only *pari passu* with the professors. However much we may differ from the propositions and conclusions urged by either, there is no sufficient reason to censure the fairness of the motives of each. If the Regents possess the power, the committee are of opinion it ought not to be exercised to remove all or any of the trustees.

In searching for remedies, to secure harmony to this college, and to produce a greater unity of action in the members of its government, the committee are induced to recommend, that the several vacancies now existing, and which shall hereafter happen in the board of trustees, shall be filled by distinguished gentlemen, who are not medical men, until they shall be equal in number to the medical trustees.

A board thus composed of the professors, and of trustees, one part of medical men, and the other of men from other professions and pursuits in life, would, in the opinion of the committee, possess within itself an equipoise, and the means of harmony, and yet retain all the medical information necessary and useful for the greatest advancement of the interest of the college. By interposing this third body between the professors and medical trustees, it would neutralize the ingredients of the college government, and prevent its too great tendency to effervesce. An ordinance making provision for this case, is therefore recommended to be adopted by the Regents.

Connected with this subject, and with a view that the board of trustees shall be composed of those three orders, it is necessary and proper to retain the professors as members of the board.—The committee therefore recommend the repeal of the ordinance of the Regents in 1820, whereby any professor thereafter to be appointed is declared ineligible to be a trustee. Another ordinance, requiring, that to make a quorum to transact business, a majority present shall be trustees who are not professors, is a sufficient guard against any acts of the professors. The board thus organized will be composed of six professors, ten medical trustees, and nine trustees from other pursuits.

In the course of the discussions on this enquiry, the disinterested zeal and patriotic feelings which influenced the trustees so solicitously to promote the advancement of the college, were often urged upon the consideration of the committee. It was insisted, on

the part of the professors, that they too were influenced by the same zeal and the same patriotic feelings, and an equal desire for the advancement of the college, with the additional stimulus of a great personal and individual interest in fame and fortune. It is a practice in courts of equity, allowing equal rectitude to all, to confide any property in its keeping, to those persons most interested in its preservation and improvement. It is a rule of the common law, established by antient jurists, and handed down as the determination of wisdom, adopted from experience in human concerns, that the guardianship and possession of an infant shall never be committed to the persons next entitled to the inheritance, in case of the infant's decease.

THE EXAMINATION OF STUDENTS.

The charter of the college provides, that the examination of candidates shall be by the professors, in the presence of the trustees, who are to receive due notice of the time and place of the examination, and may attend. Professors and trustees all vote on the fitness and recommendation of the candidates, to the Regents for a degree, and a majority of voices determines the result. All agree that the practice and the regulations on this subject are of importance to the student, and of deep interest to the advancement and the honour of the college. The possibility that any student should be either unduly favored or oppressed in the course of his studies or at his examination, must not be admitted. And the committee believe it has hitherto occurred in no instance. Examinations which become too lax, will favour the indolent student, and send out the ignorant candidate with the honors of the college, and bring discredit on the institution. If too rigid and unreasonably severe, they become oppressive, and will drive away the pupils, and chill and even nip the growth of the college with an untimely frost.

Should that section of the present charter, relating to the examination of candidates, be so amended as to suspend the right of the recommendation of candidates on the vote of the professors and trustees, and further provision be made, that the examination should be by the professors in the presence of the trustees, and under the direction of a "board of visitors," and who alone should recommend the candidates to the Regents, as found worthy and meriting the honors of the college ; it would put at rest all possibility of unfairness in the examinations, or of favouritism or oppres-

sion. A *board of visitors* of not less than five persons, distinguished for medical science or literature, might be annually appointed by the Regents a short time before the close of the lectures, to attend the examination. They would be entirely impartial. They would cherish the worthy candidate, and yet sufficiently guard the reputation of the college.

Such a board for examiners might be selected from the Regents, from the trustees, or from other persons in the city or state, respectable for their learning. A professor from the "Western college of physicians and surgeons," or even any distinguished professor from the universities of Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore or New-Haven, might be requested by the Regents to associate as a member of such a board of visitors. It will be observed, that these suggestions are intended to assimilate with the regulations adopted for the examination of cadets at the West Point academy. These principles have proved in practice most auspicious to the harmony and reputation of that distinguished seminary.

An examination and recommendation of candidates by such a board of examiners, would carry forward its own credit. It would raise the qualifications of a degree. Above suspicion for its intelligence and impartiality, it would redound to the honor of the student, stimulate professors to exertions, and greatly add to the celebrity of the college. From the observations which your committee were enabled to make, of the proficiency and acquirements in science of the professors and trustees of this college, they confidently believe it can come with its class of candidates, from the scrutiny of such a board of examiners, and stand holding its place with renewed lustre in the ranks of science.

It is therefore recommended that an ordinance be adopted by the Regents, carrying into effect these provisions, in regard to the examination of students.

Should the Regents approve of these recommendations, and any doubts be entertained as to the power of the Regents to amend the charter of the college, so as to carry the suggestions into full effect, the committee believe the evident utility and necessity of new regulations on this subject, would induce the professors and trustees, upon application from the Regents, to give their corporate assent to the alterations. Legislative interposition may otherwise become necessary. But the provisions recommended in regard to the filling of vacancies in the board of trustees, from persons not concerned in medicine, till they constitute the one half of

the number, will however carry into effect and accomplish the principal means desired to secure harmony in the institution.

From the preceding remarks, it will be apparent that the opinion of this committee is decidedly against granting the prayer of the trustees in their memorial of the 6th of January, 1825, in which the trustees ask the Regents "*to vest them with the power of regulating all the affairs of the college, and to delegate to the trustees the power of making their own by-laws and regulations.*" In the opinion of this committee, a surrender of these important powers and authority by the Regents would be inconsistent with the high duties which they owe to the people of this state, and would, under existing circumstances, be altogether inexpedient for the interest of the college.

Before closing this report, the committee take the liberty to suggest for the consideration of the Regents, one other subject, which has occurred to them in the course of their inquiries.—They are aware that the subject is not directly included in the visitorial powers confided to them. But its importance induces them to present it for consideration.

It is proposed to extend and apply the medical schools, and perhaps the colleges, to the teaching of *Agriculture, Mechanics, and the Useful Arts*, as collateral branches, and to separate classes.

Notwithstanding the liberal endowments made by this state, in the support of its various literary institutions, yet great deficiencies exist, in supplying the requirements of society, and in the adaption of the sciences to actual practice in the pursuits of common life. The rapid growth of this state; its multiplied resources; and the industry and enterprise of its citizens, make large demands upon the sciences, to aid and co-operate in advancing the general prosperity. It is not sufficient that the sciences connected with agriculture and the mechanic arts, are diligently studied and correctly understood by a few votaries in our literary institutions. It seems very necessary that those sciences essential to the prosperity of manufacturing industry, should be especially promoted, and adapted to the comprehension of a meritorious class of citizens, whose situation and circumstances, while they deny them the opportunities of an academic life, devote them more sedulously to mechanic pursuits, and perhaps as certainly prepare them to advance the public good. If this class of sciences was exhibited to the manufacturer and practical mechanic in a course of lectures, it would not fail to produce improvements,

and confer lasting benefits on the country. Courses of popular lectures for a few weeks in every year, upon Agriculture, Chemistry and Mechanics, with illustrations, and the exhibition of experiments, models and specimens, would secure an advantageous union in the efforts of theoretical and practical men ; would awaken the mental energies of the agriculturist and the artisan, and soon produce a new era in the mechanic arts.

The advantages which may be anticipated from the proposed more intimate union of the efforts of scientific and of practical men, will be sufficiently illustrated by reference to a recent and familiar case. The hats hitherto in use, have been manufactured and stiffened with *glues*, which were dissoluble in water. Within the last five or six years, "*water proof*" hats, warranted to be impervious to water, have come into general use. The art of making of them has been blazoned forth as a new invention, and has been even the subject of "patent rights." The important discovery consists in the use of "*Shell Lac*," as the stiffening glue. It is a gum imported, and found in all druggist stores. It is often used in medicine, and a peculiar property of which has long been known to the chemist, to consist in its being indissoluble in water, while it readily dissolves in alcohol, and becomes a convenient glue, impervious to water. The discovery and recent invention, therefore, consist in the working mechanic having acquired and adopted into his daily business, the information on this one point, which has been possessed and used for the last century by every chemist, druggist, and compounder of medicines.

Perhaps, within another century, *or, if assisted, within another year*, the worker in leather may acquire a like secret, and by saturating his materials with some such ingredient, effectually protect our feet from moisture. Water proof cloth has long been also a desideratum for mankind. It is said, it has been recently manufactured in Great Britain with the use of the common "*India Rubber*." The manufacturer has hitherto been unable to make a solution of this substance, while the chemist has long known its solubility, by the application of bituminous oils, like the "*Seneca Oil*," of which this country affords an abundance.

The indigent mechanic must rely upon his daily labour for his subsistence. He can not waste his time, or incur expense, to go in pursuit of the sciences, even as applied to his own occupation.—Any separate establishment, requiring him to leave his employment or the apprentice to forego his labor, would thereby be inaccessible.

ble to them. To be of utility, it must be fitted to their opportunities and their means. It must be applied to their condition.

The school should be organized with a view to convenience and economy, in time and expense, and with the expectation that the manufacturer, the mechanic, the journeyman, apprentice and labourer, will become the pupils, and there learn the principles upon which successful practice in their several occupations depend, and acquire additional skill in their respective employments. Some public provision, by which these advantages may be extended to this portion of our community, seems to be required, as a measure of policy, and as an act of equal justice. It is believed it may easily be accomplished, under the patronage of the Regents, and by an authority to hold such a course of lectures. Scientific gentlemen would undertake the duties ; or the professors of chemistry and of natural philosophy, in the institutions already established, might derive fame and profit, and find employment for their leisure time, in this further duty. It would be consonant with their present pursuits. The institutions now provided for medical or literary purposes, might thus be made more extensively *focal points*, from which to radiate the public mind. They would better accord with the situation and condition of our country. The plan of education in our colleges was derived from Europe, where it was established by the Romish priesthood ; and it has been adopted here, and since continued with too great a subserviency to precedent. Perhaps at some future time it may be deemed expedient to re-examine the system of education now in practice, and to adopt such improvements as may more immediately conform it to the pursuits of our citizens, and the spirit of our government : at least, to provide a plan of education in some of the colleges, a part of which shall be more suited for our intercourse with other nations, and more adapted to the energies and the enterprise of our people. To encourage the arts, as applied to manufacturing industry, by a more direct application of the sciences upon the plan now proposed, will be an extension, and a new application, of the benevolent and important system of common schools. It may be presumed that the judicious master would not only permit, but encourage " his apprentices to frequent lectures within their reach, sure that the little time so lost to his trade, would be amply repaid, by the increased diligence, sobriety and knowledge, thereby purchased."

The moral effect justly to be anticipated upon the youth and middle classes of society, should also induce to the proposed object. It will diffuse intelligence amongst a portion of society, whose condition has been hitherto almost inaccessible to improvement; and remove that state of ignorance and depression usually incident to, and often urged against, mechanic pursuits and manufacturing establishments.

The laboratory, apparatus, models and specimens now used by professors, might, without prejudice, be allotted to this further purpose.

If an augmentation of the cabinet of models and specimens should be required, the importance of the object would justify the hope of further bounty from the legislature.

The able professor of Moral Philosophy in Columbia College, (Mr. McVickar) with great benefit to the institution, and increased reputation to himself, has recently made "Political Economy" the subject of a course of lectures. The professor of Natural Philosophy in the same college, (Mr. Renwick); the professor of Chemistry (Dr. Macneven) in the college of Physicians and Surgeons in New-York; and the professor of Chemistry (Mr. J. Nott) in Union College, upon suggestions from your committee, have assented to undertake, with the permission of the institutions to which they belong, courses of lectures for the instruction of mechanics, under the authority and sanction of the Regents. The colleges at New-York, Schenectady, Fairfield, Hamilton, and Geneva; and perhaps the academies at Albany, and the principal villages, furnish convenient opportunities to make the experiment of teaching such branches of education, as collateral to the professorships and the original objects of those institutions.

The utility of the scheme would soon be ascertained, and the expediency determined, of hereafter conferring *degrees for proficiency in agriculture and the useful arts*. All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Committee.

JAMES TALLMADGE,

Chairman.

October 15th, 1825.

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